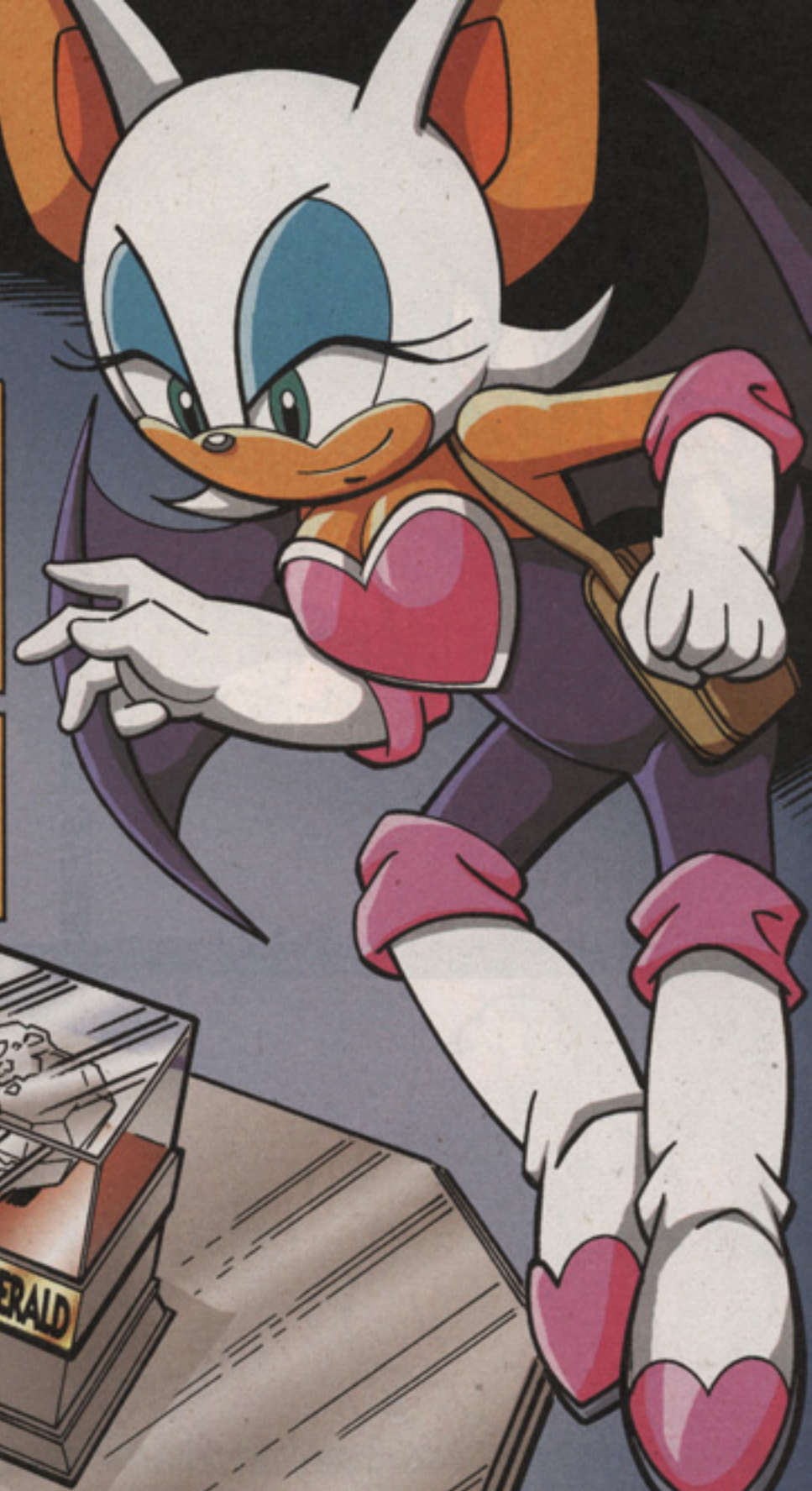


SONIC XTM

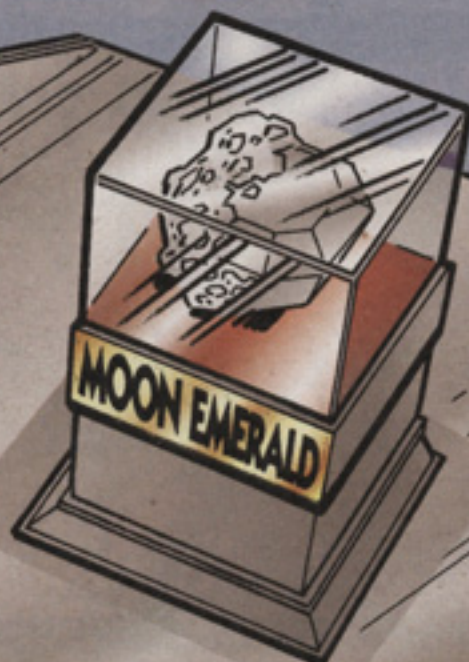
MISSING GEM?!
NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY RARE,
EXPENSIVE, PRICELESS GEMS.
WHY?



A dynamic illustration of Sonic the Hedgehog. He is shown from the waist up, leaning forward with his right hand pointing towards the viewer and his left hand on his hip. He has a confident, slightly mischievous expression. He is wearing his signature orange and white outfit with a red heart on the chest, and his white gloves and shoes with red heart details. His large orange quills are prominent. The background is dark and stylized, suggesting a night scene or a space museum.

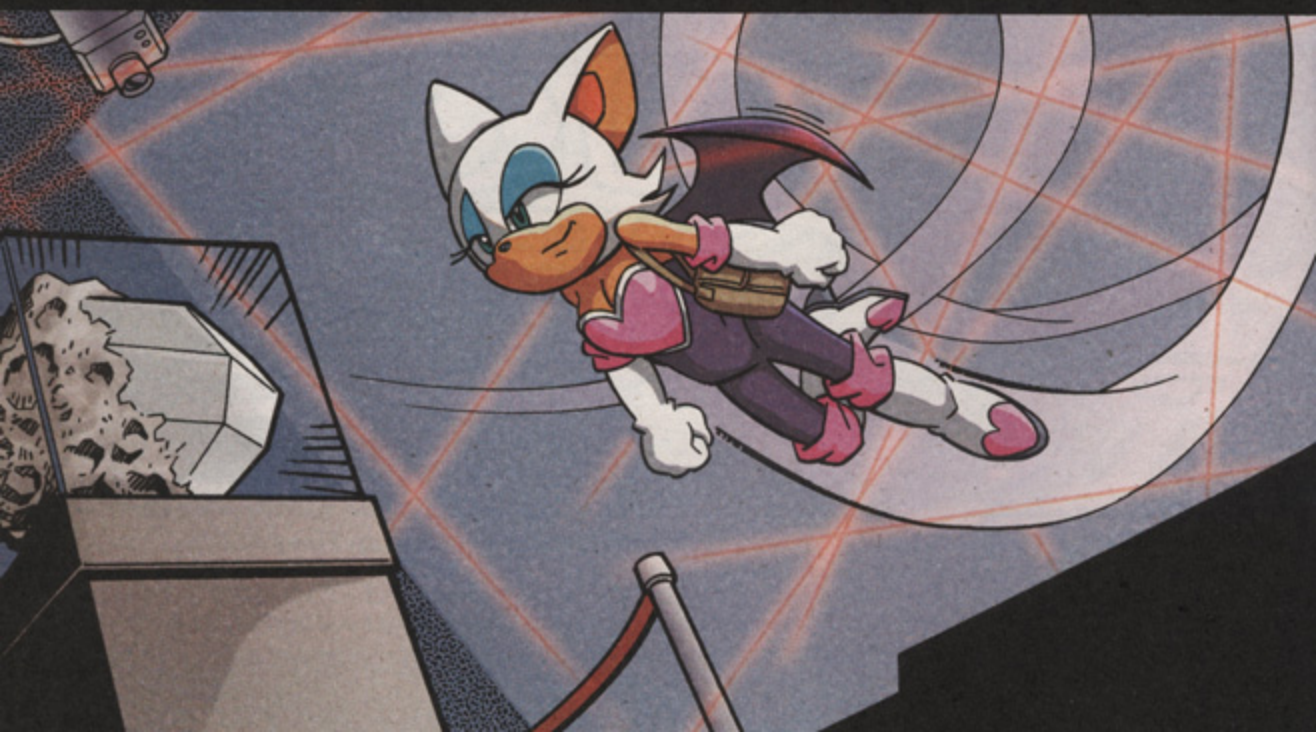
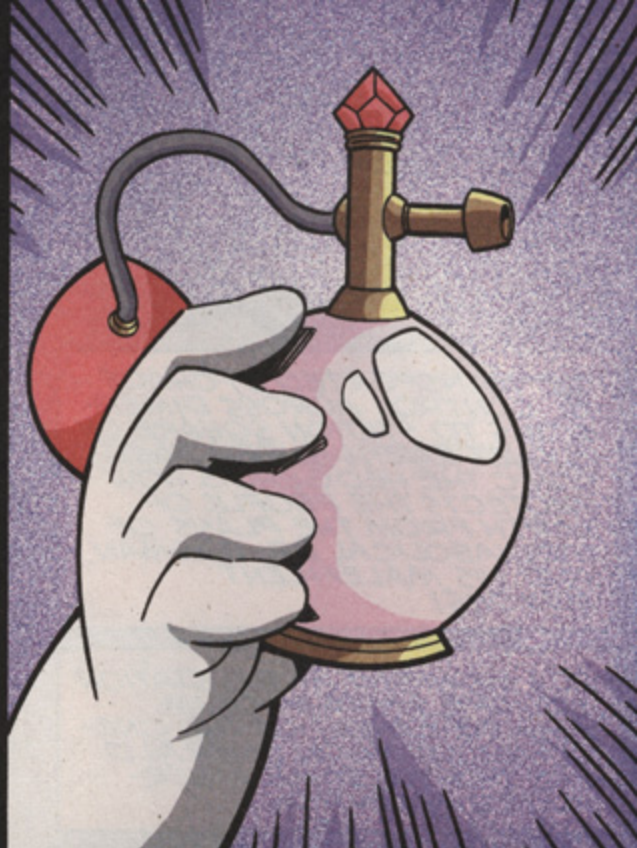
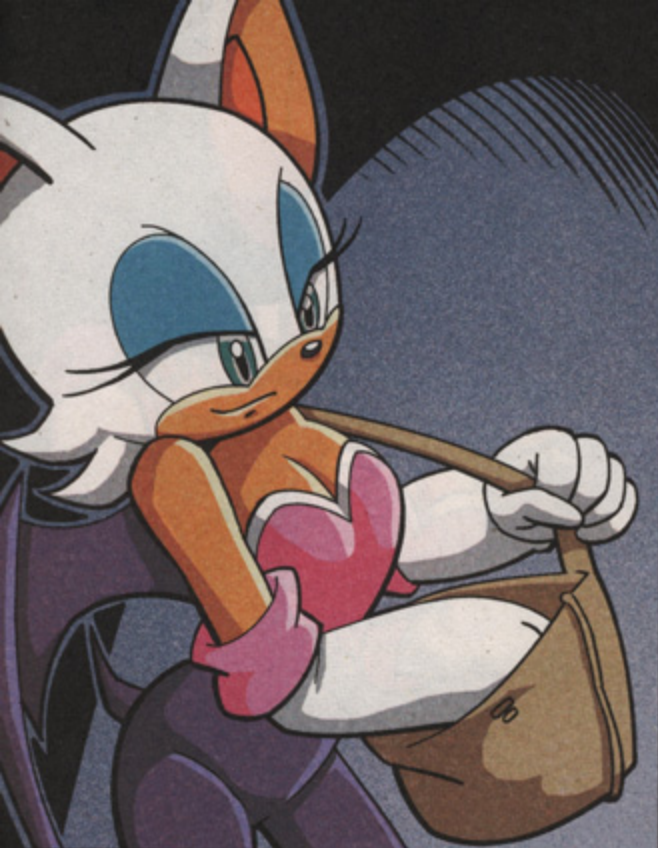
TRANSPORTED BY CHAOS CONTROL ACROSS DIMENSIONS TO STATION SQUARE ON PLANET EARTH, SUPER-FAST SONIC THE HEDGEHOG NOW PROTECTS THE PEOPLE OF EARTH FROM THE PLANS OF THE DIABOLICAL DR. EGGMAN AND HIS MALEFICENT MINIONS!

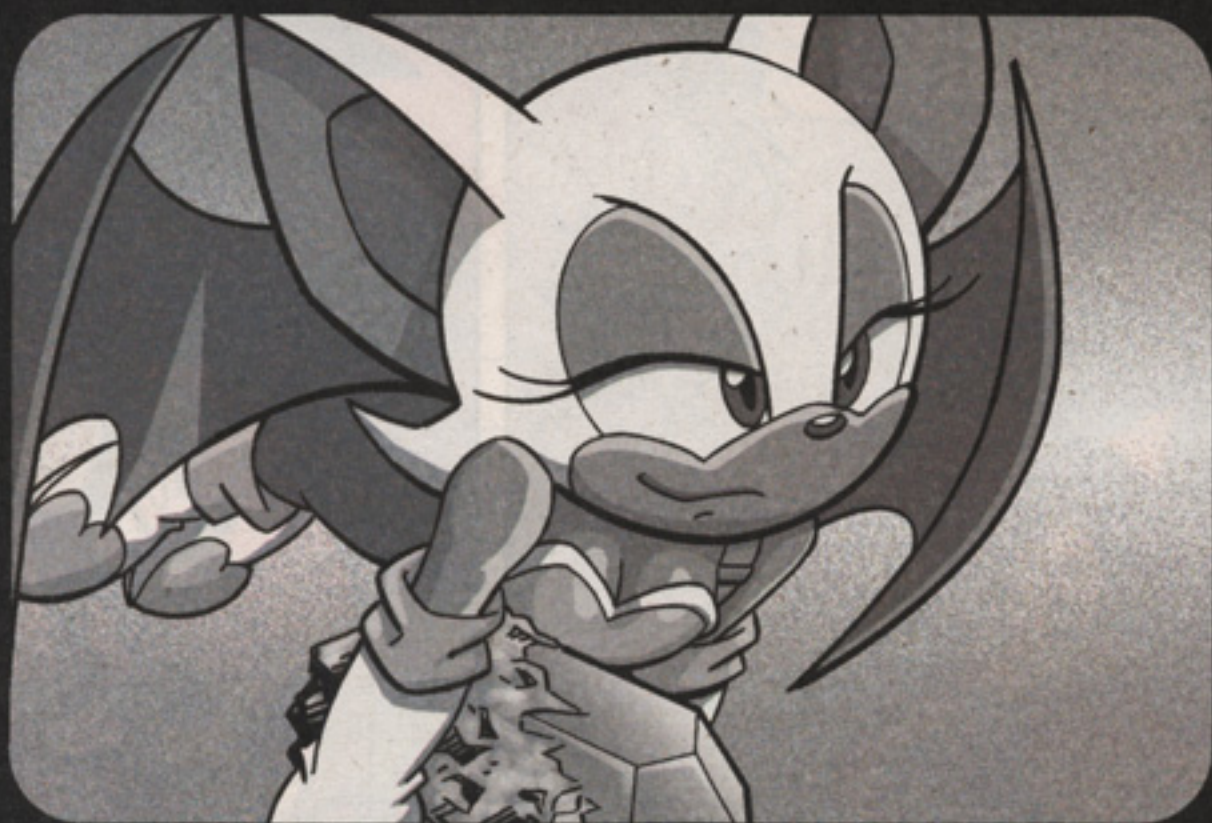
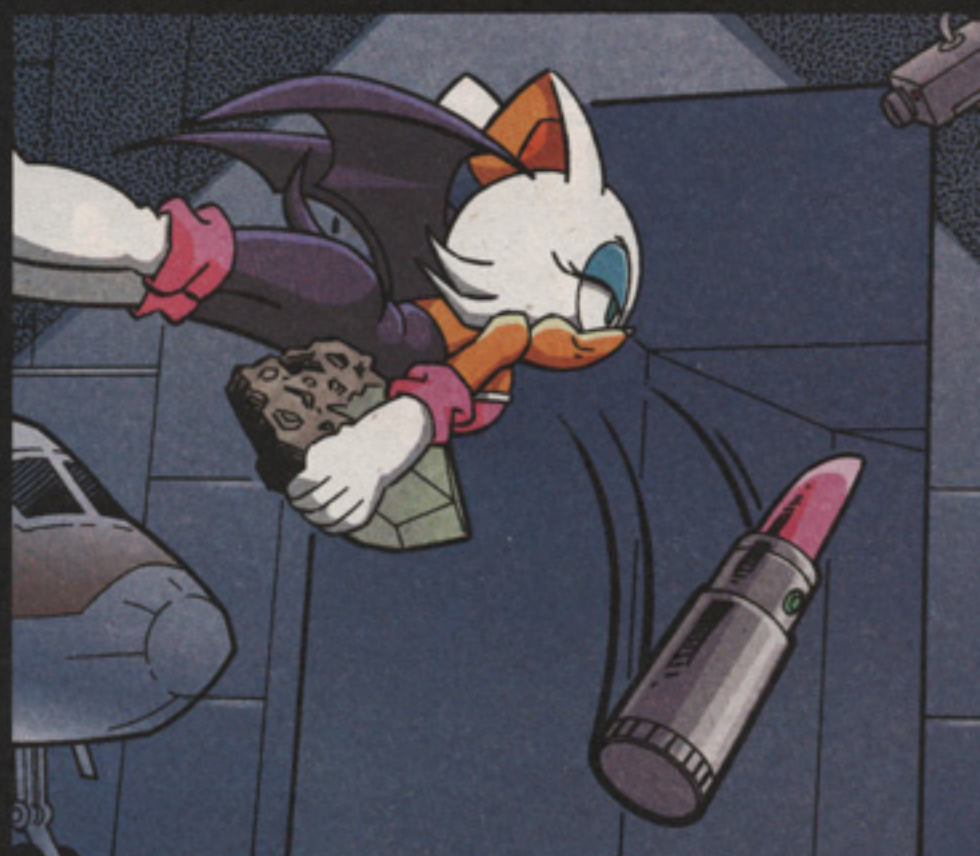
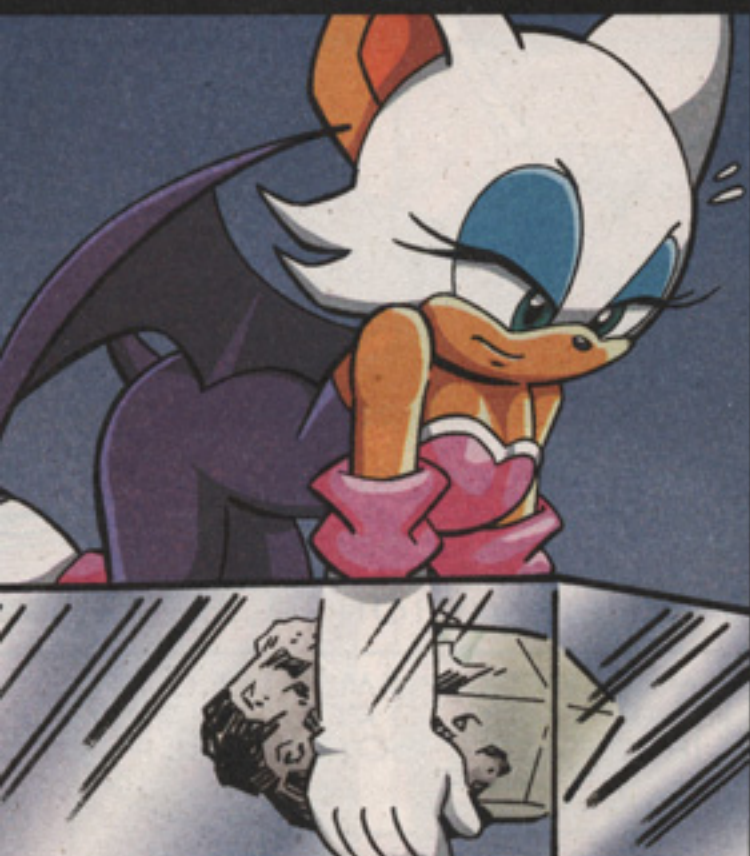
IT'S MIDNIGHT AT THE STATION SQUARE SPACE MUSEUM, AND THE EXHIBIT OF THE ONE-OF-A-KIND MOON EMERALD HAS DRAWN SOME AFTER-HOURS ATTENTION...



ROUGE GOES ROGUE!

Written by Joe Edkin • Pencilled by David Hutchison • Inked by Terry Austin
Lettered by John Workman • Colored by Josh Ray • Cover by Patrick "Spaz" Spaziantie
Editor: Mike Pellerito • Managing Editor: Victor Gorelick • Editor-in-chief: Richard Goldwater
Special thanks to SEGA: Robert Leffler and Dyna Lopez at SEGA Licensing and SEGA Studio USA





THE NEXT MORNING, AT THORNDYKE MANSION, CHRIS WATCHES TELEVISION WITH HIS FRIENDS TAILS THE FOX AND SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

...AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT MADE AN ARREST IN THE DARING THEFT OF THE MOON EMERALD FROM STATION SQUARE'S SPACE MUSEUM...

...BUT SECURITY CAMERAS CLEARLY SHOW ROUGE THE BAT ESCAPING WITH THE RARE GEM.

I CAN'T BELIEVE ROUGE STOLE THE MOON EMERALD!

I THOUGHT SHE GAVE UP BEING A THIEF WHEN SHE BECAME A GUARDIAN UNITS OF THE NATIONS AGENT.

I DON'T BUY IT EITHER, TAILS.

REMEMBER WHEN SHADOW WAS COMMITTING CRIMES... AND EVERYONE THOUGHT IT WAS ME?*

MAYBE THE SAME THING IS HAPPENING TO ROUGE, AND IF IT IS, I'VE GOT TO HELP HER!

*AS SEEN DURING THE SHADOW SAGA ON THE TV SHOW!

MEANWHILE, AT
THE WHITE HOUSE
IN WASHINGTON,
D.C....

SECURITY
CAMERA FOOTAGE,
MR. PRESIDENT. YOU
HAVE TO ORDER ROUGE'S
IMMEDIATE ARREST.

MISTER PRESIDENT,
I DISAGREE WITH
CAPTAIN WESTWOOD'S
ASSESSMENT. I DON'T
BELIEVE ROUGE HAD
ANYTHING TO DO
WITH THE
THEFT!

THEN HOW
DO YOU
EXPLAIN
THIS, AGENT
TOPAZ?

IT'S A STANDARD
ISSUE G.U.N. LIPSTICK
LASER, JUST LIKE
THE ONE ISSUED TO
ROUGE THE BAT.

IT WAS
FOUND IN THE
MUSEUM.

I'M SORRY,
AGENT TOPAZ.
I DON'T
HAVE ANY
CHOICE.

I'M
ORDERING
YOU TO TAKE
ROUGE INTO
CUSTODY
UNTIL WE
CAN SORT
THIS WHOLE
MESS
OUT.

TOPAZ RETURNS TO HER
OFFICE TO CARRY OUT
HER ORDERS, ONLY TO
FIND...

ROUGE?

ROUGE,
WHERE
ARE
YOU?

SHE'S
GONE!



MEANWHILE,
ON ANGEL
ISLAND, WHERE
KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA
GUARDS THE
MASTER
EMERALD...

YOU HAVE
TO LET ME
STAY HERE,
KNUCKLES...

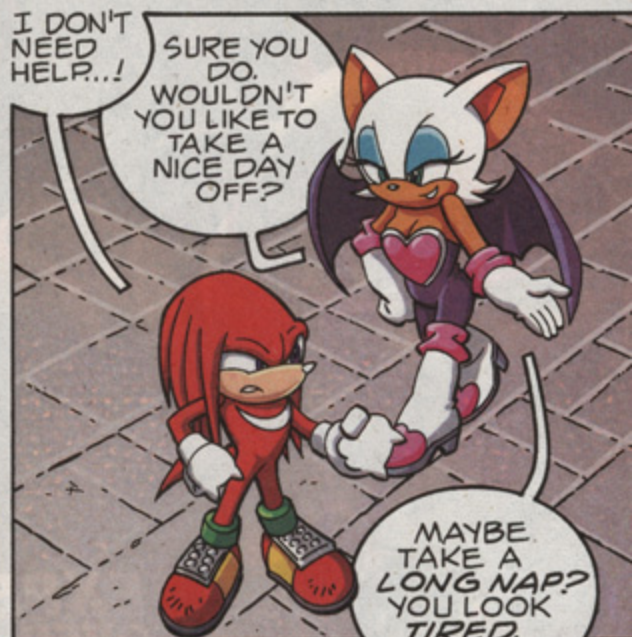


...I'M BEING SET UP.
I DIDN'T STEAL
THAT STUPID MOON
EMERALD.



I DON'T
KNOW,
ROUGE...

I'LL HELP YOU
GUARD THE
MASTER
EMERALD.



I DON'T
NEED
HELP...!

SURE YOU
DO.
WOULDN'T
YOU LIKE TO
TAKE A
NICE DAY
OFF?

MAYBE
TAKE A
LONG NAP?
YOU LOOK
TIRED.

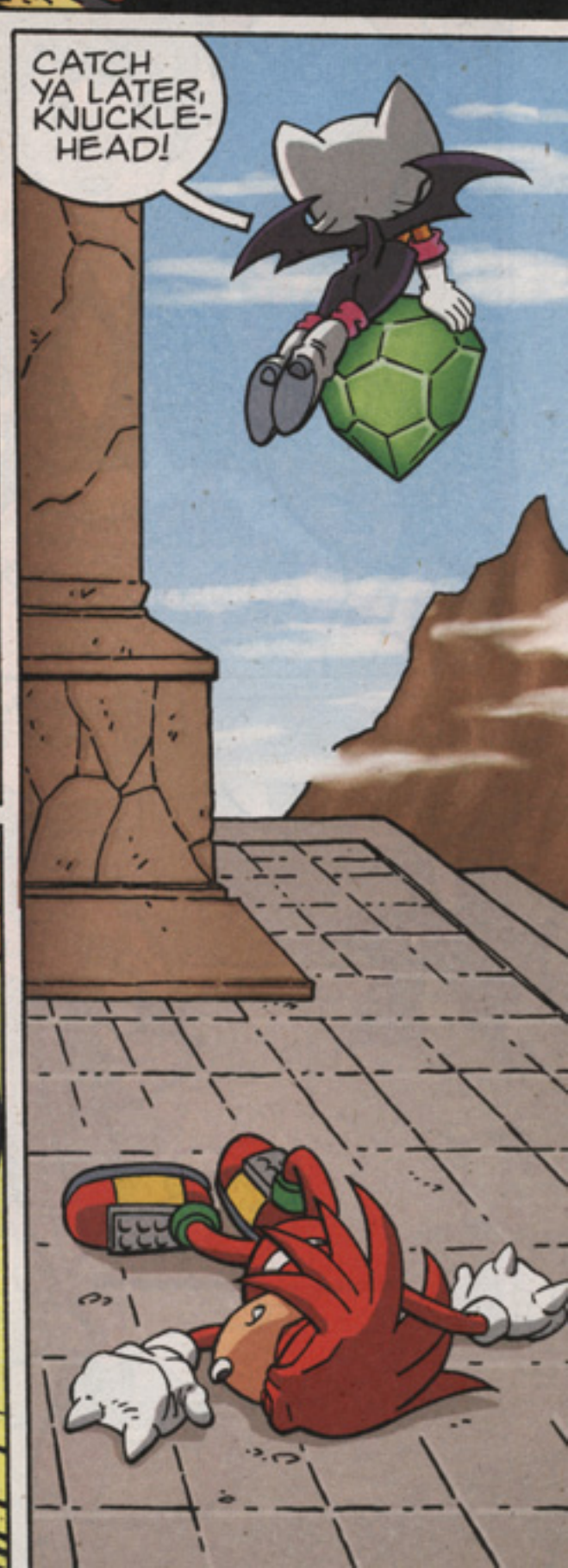
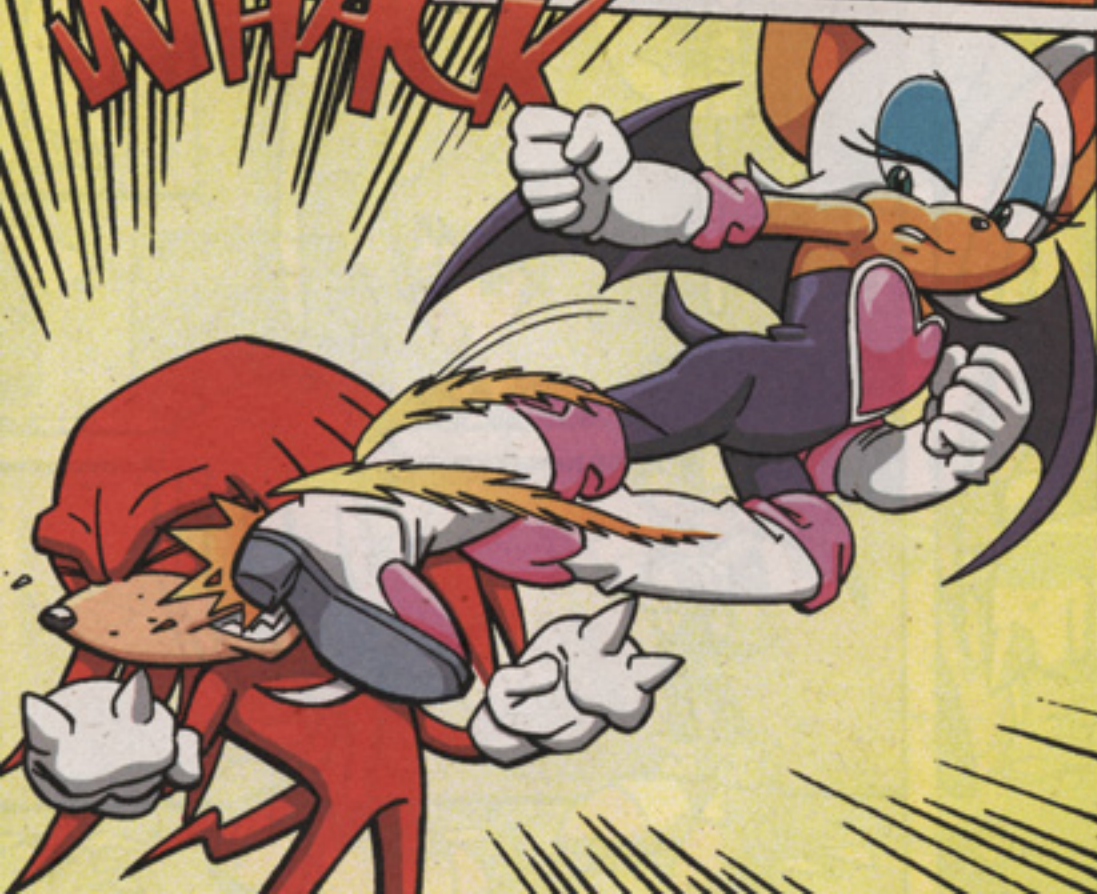
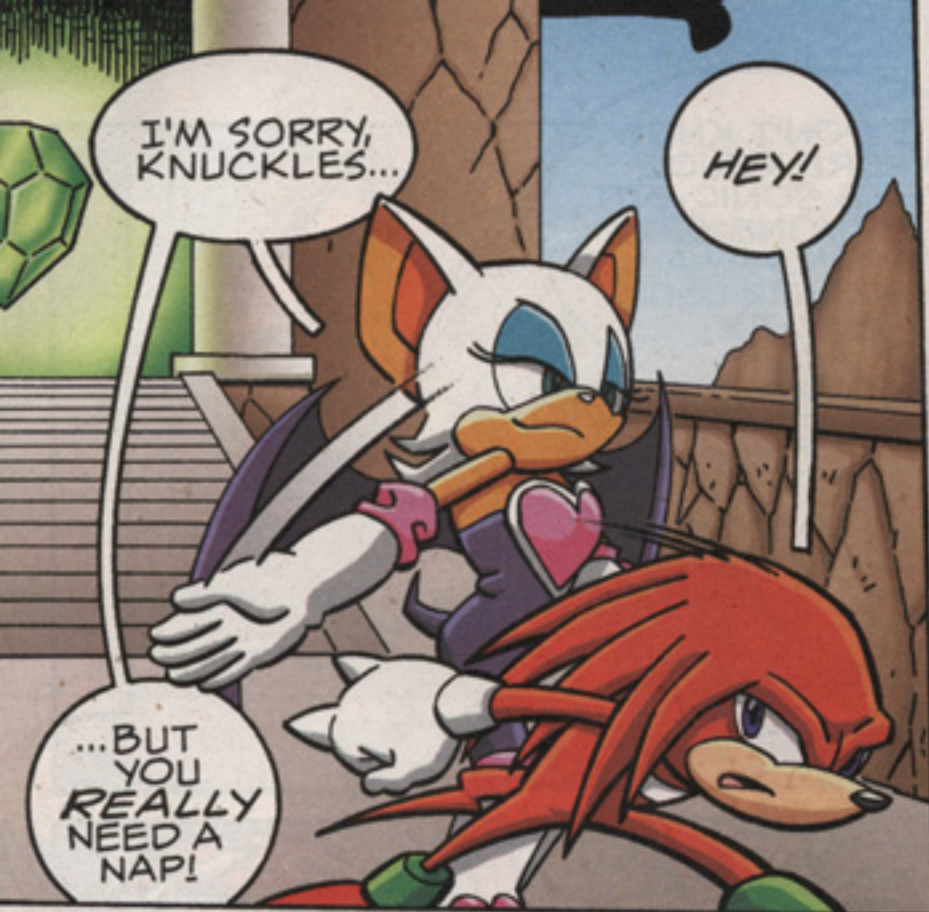


I'M
NOT
TIRED!

NO--
YOU
REALLY
NEED A
NAP.



WHAT
--?



THE NEXT DAY, IN AGENT TOPAZ'S OFFICE AT G.U.N. HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C....

I DON'T KNOW WHERE ROUGE WENT, SONIC, BUT EVERYONE SAYS RUNNING AWAY MAKES HER LOOK GUILTY.

THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE TO THE STORY, TOPAZ.

I KNOW.

BUT UNLESS ROUGE COMES BACK, EVERYONE'S GOING TO THINK SHE'S BECOME A THIEF AGAIN.



WHERE IS SHE?

KNUCKLES! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHERE'S ROUGE?

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HER?

SHE STOLE THE MASTER EMERALD!



ONE WEEK LATER,
OUTSIDE THE
SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTE IN
WASHINGTON, D.C....

I'M PLEASED
TO ANNOUNCE OUR
NEW EXHIBIT--THE
WORLD'S LARGEST
CHAOS EMERALD,
RECENTLY FOUND
IN ALASKA...

I TOLD
YOU
ROUGE
WOULDN'T
SHOW
UP.

SHE'LL BE HERE.
JUST YOU WAIT...

THAT
NIGHT...

EVEN IF SHE
WAS GUILTY, SHE'S
TOO SMART TO
FALL FOR A
TRAP LIKE THIS,
WESTWOOD!

IF ANY-
ONE'S GOING
TO SHOW UP
TO TRY TO
STEAL YOUR
FAKE CHAOS
EMERALD...

...IT'S
DOCTOR
EGGMAN.

DID YOU EVER
STOP TO THINK
THAT ROUGE AND
EGGMAN ARE
IN ON THIS
TOGETHER?

ALL I KNOW
IS... IT WAS
ROUGE WHO
STOLE THE
MASTER
EMERALD.

...AND I'M
GOING TO
MAKE HER
PAY FOR
IT...

LISTEN,
COWBOY,
ROUGE
WOULD
NEVER
WORK FOR
EGGMAN!

AND SHE'S
NOT GOING
TO BE
FOOLED BY
A HUGE
CUBIC
ZIRCONIUM!

2367



ALL
RIGHT, YOU
FLYING RAT!
GIVE IT
BACK!

ARE YOUR
DREADLOCKS
WOUND
TOO TIGHT?
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



YOU'RE NOT
LEAVING HERE
UNTIL YOU
GIVE BACK
THE MASTER
EMERALD!

I DON'T HAVE
THE MASTER
EMERALD!



ARE YOU
DENYING
THAT YOU
KNOCKED
ME OUT
AND STOLE
IT?

SWEETIE,
I DON'T HAVE
TO KNOCK
ANYONE OUT
TO GET
WHAT I
WANT.



SOMEBODY'S
PRETENDING
TO BE ME!

I'M NOT
GOING TO
FALL FOR
THAT STORY
TWICE!



WHERE
DID
KNUCKLES
GO?

LOOK UP
THERE!

IT'S
ROUGE!



WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

WHAM!



SHE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM ME NOW!

WAIT!



?

EXCELLENT! THREE FOR THE PRICE OF ONE.

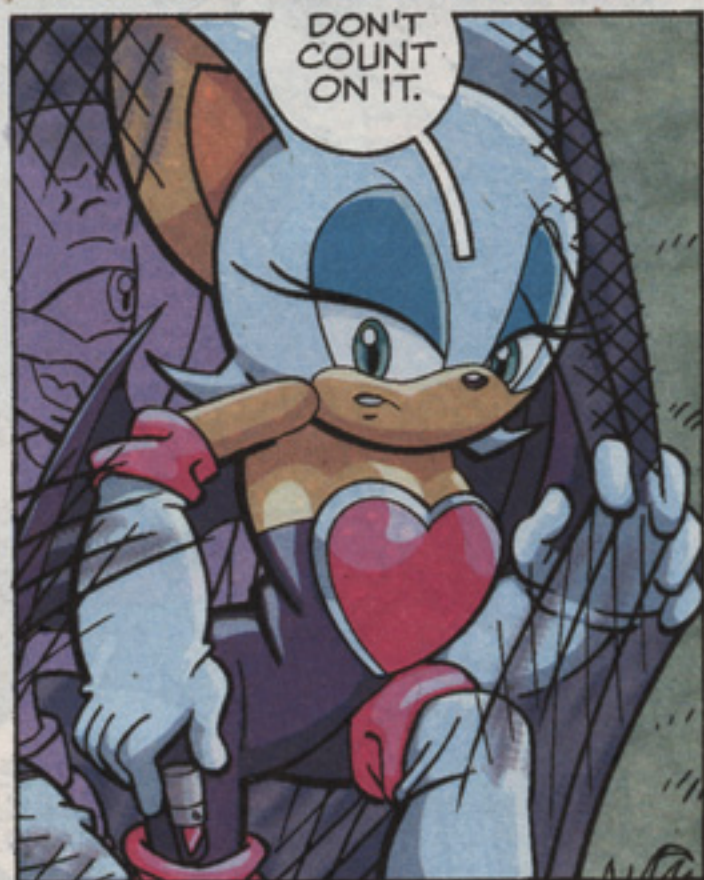
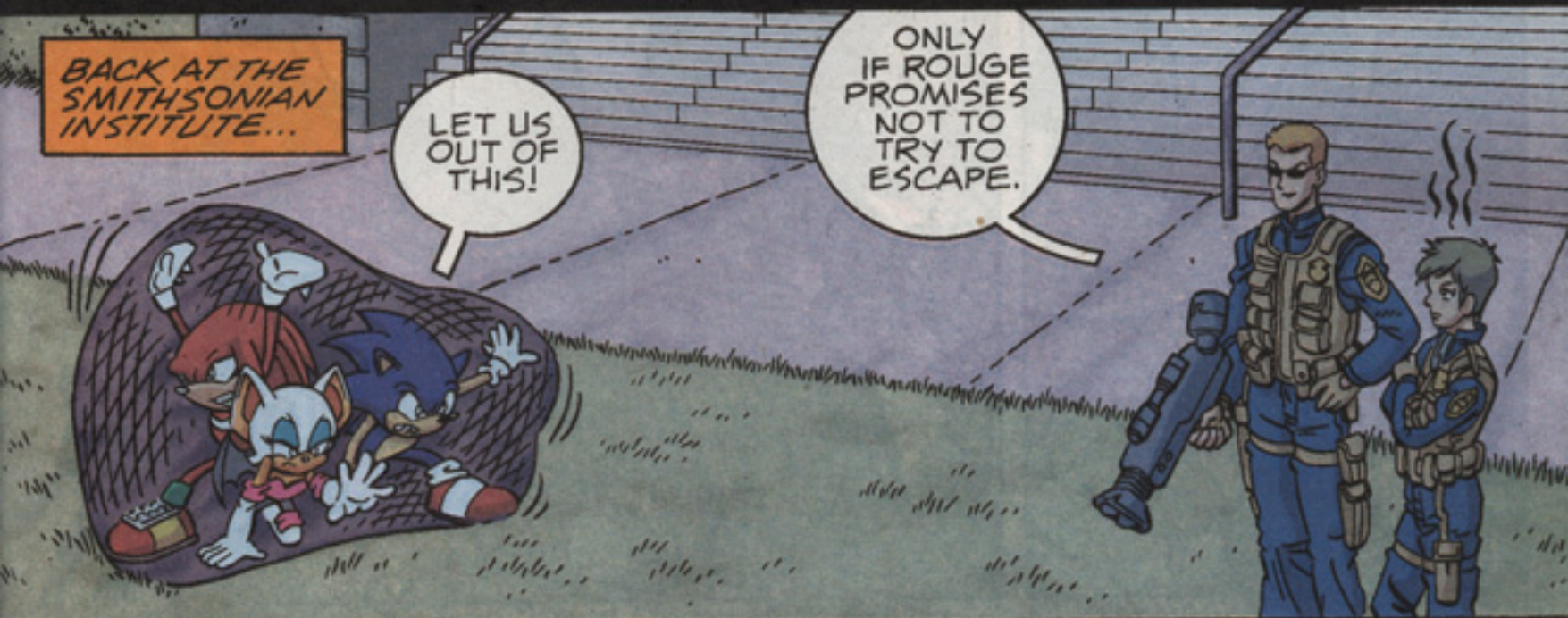
NOT FAR AWAY, HIDDEN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE POTOMAC RIVER...

HA! THIS IS GOING EVEN BETTER THAN I'D HOPED!



...THE EVIL DR. EGGMAN IS HATCHING HIS LATEST SCHEME.

WHILE ROUGE, SONIC, KNUCKLES, AND THE HUMAN FIGHT WITH EACH OTHER, IT WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY TO STEAL THE CHAOS EMERALD.



I'M GOING TO GET A PROMOTION **WHEN** I PROVE ALL YOU TALKING ANIMALS ARE PLOTTING AGAINST THE HUMAN RACE!



NOW WE CAN GET **BACK** TO BUSINESS!



COUGH
COUGH

THIS IS NOT
WHAT I'D CALL
"A ROCKING
GOOD TIME!"

FREEZE,
OR I'LL
FIRE!

YEAH--
BECAUSE
YOU SAW HOW
WELL THAT
WORKED.

HEY!

WHOA!

I TOLD YOU THERE
WAS AN IMPOSTER
PRETENDING TO
BE ME!

I'VE
BEEN
FOOLED
AGAIN?!

HOW
MUCH DO YOU
WANNA BET
THE EGGMAN'S
BEHIND THIS?

LET'S TAKE
THIS ROGUE
ROUGE DOWN!

HMMMM...IF I WANT
THAT CHAOS EMERALD,
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO
TAKE MATTERS INTO MY
OWN HANDS!

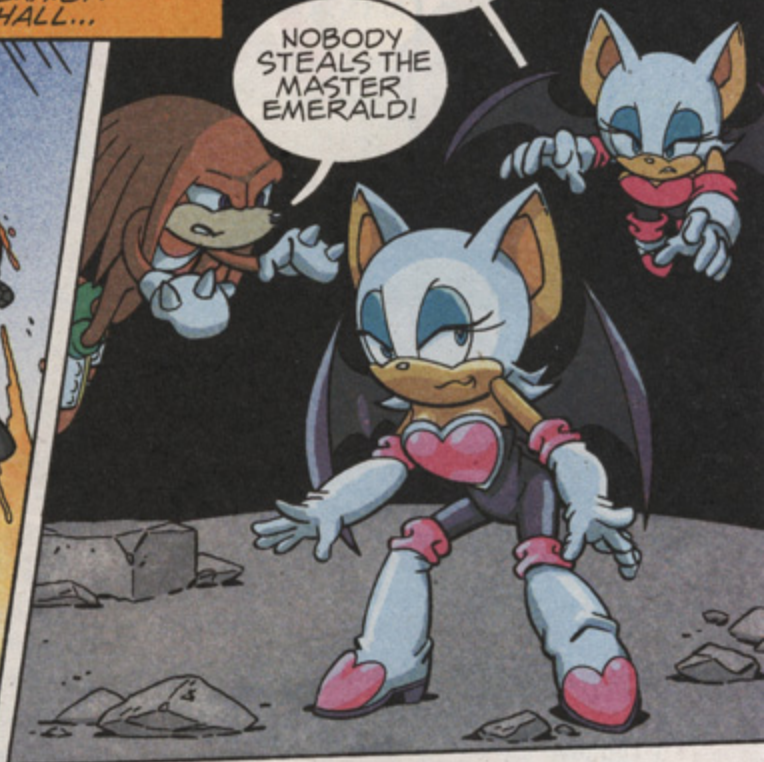
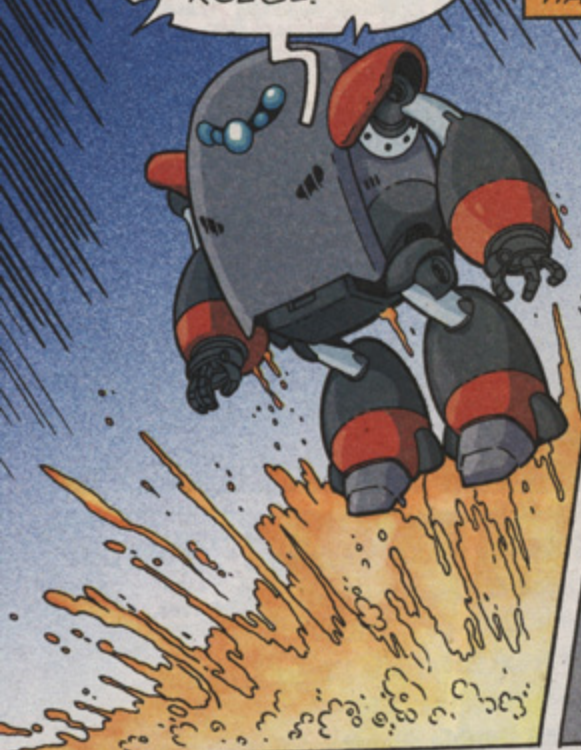
PREPARE
FOR LIFT-
OFF!

WE'LL MAKE OFF
WITH THE EMERALD
WHILE THE OTHERS
FIGHT MY ROBOT
ROUGE!

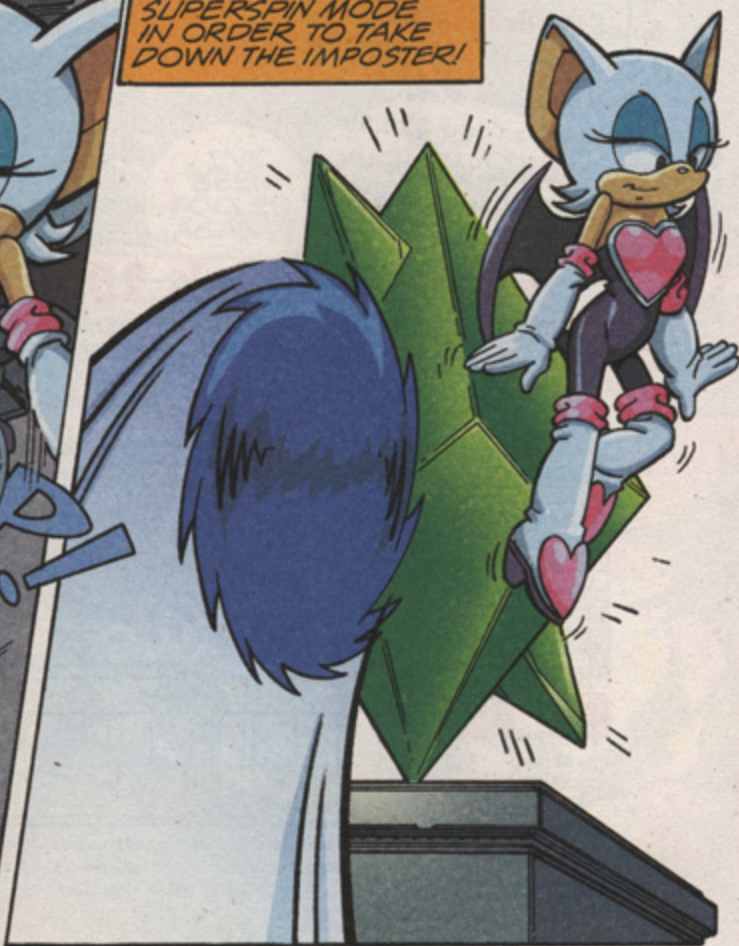
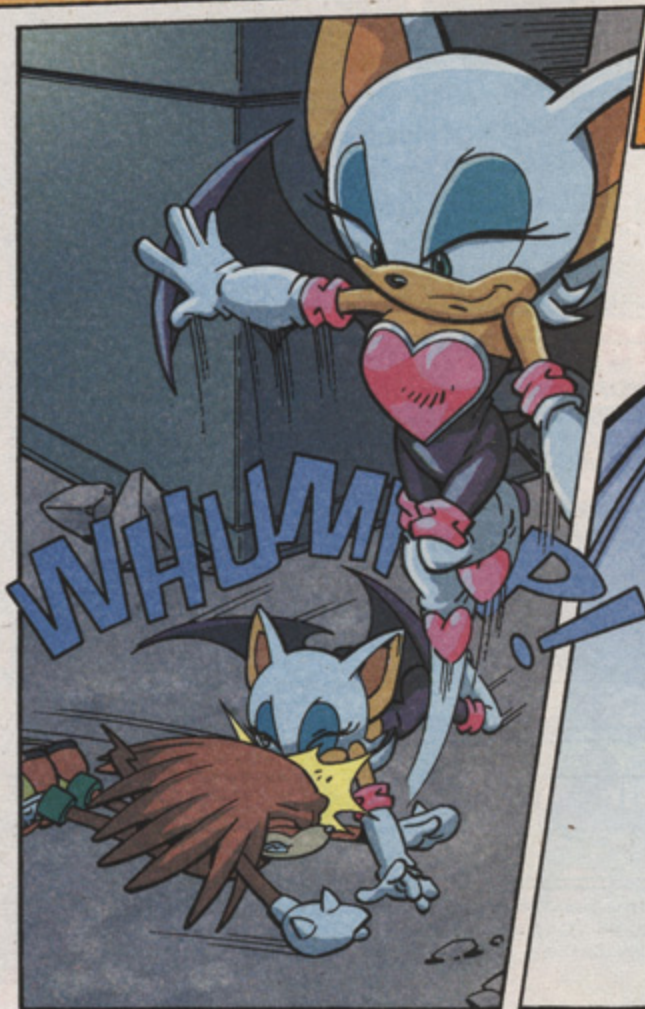
INSIDE THE
SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTE'S
EXHIBIT
HALL...

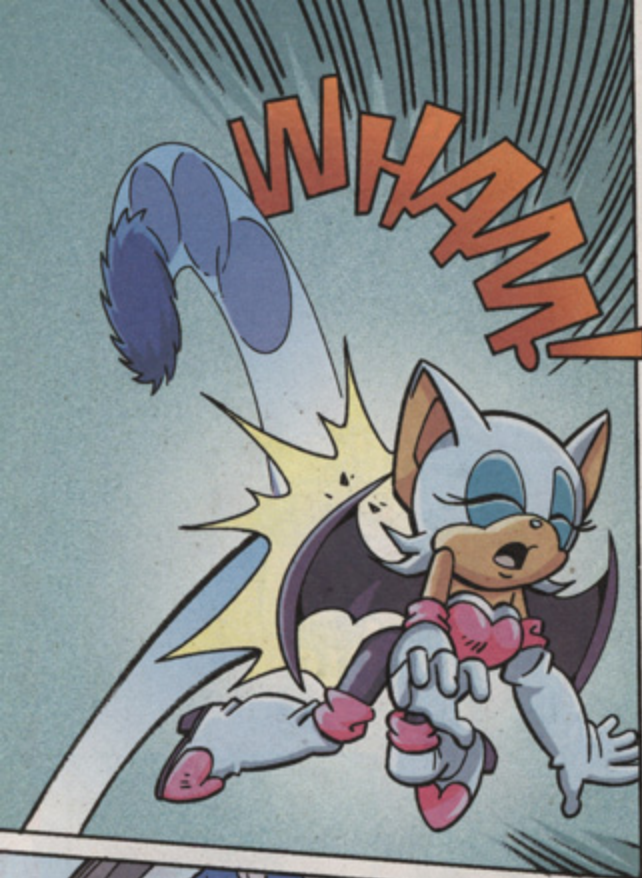
NOBODY
STEALS MY
ACT!

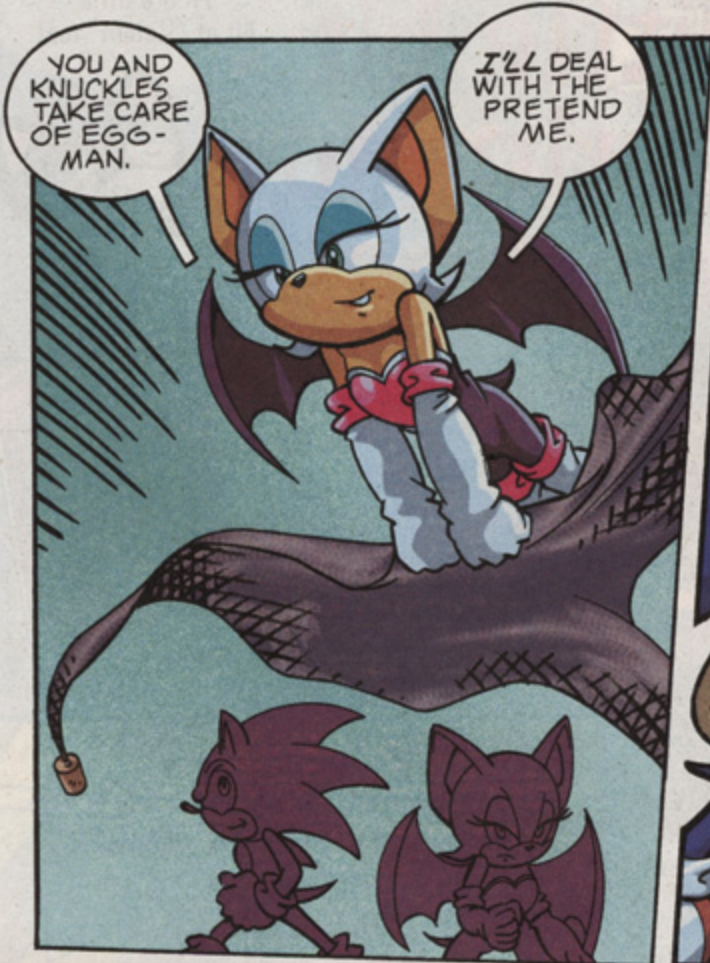
NOBODY
STEALS THE
MASTER
EMERALD!



SONIC GOES INTO
SUPERSPIN MODE
IN ORDER TO TAKE
DOWN THE IMPOSTER!

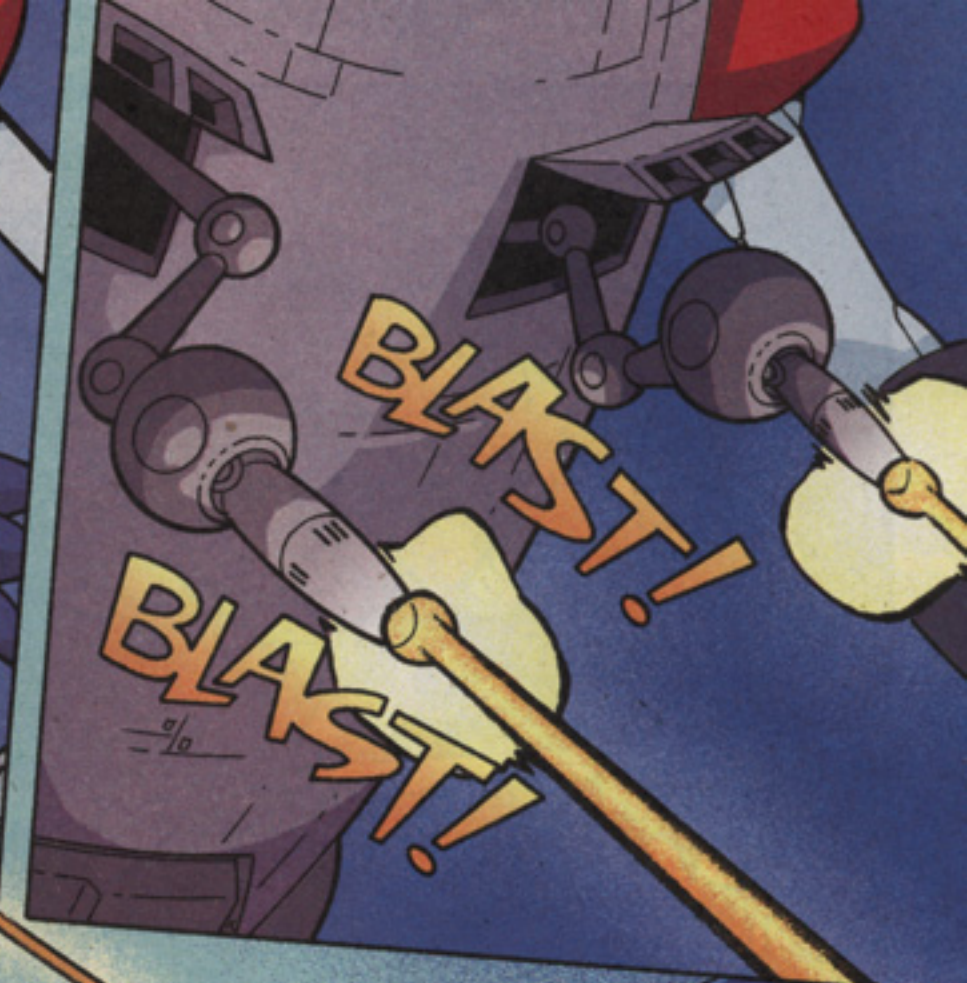








?



BLAST!!
BLAST!!



YIKES!

YOW!



THE CHEST
PLATE IS
HEAVILY
ARMED.

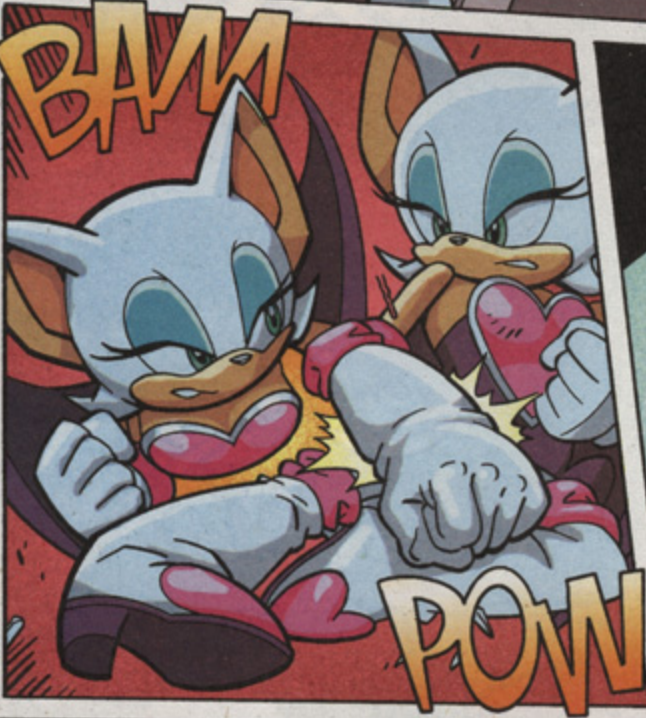
I'LL BET
EGGMAN'S
HIDING
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT
UNDER
THERE!



LET'S
SMASH
IT!



PREPARE
FOR A
BEAT DOWN,
YOU CHEAP
KNOCKOFF!



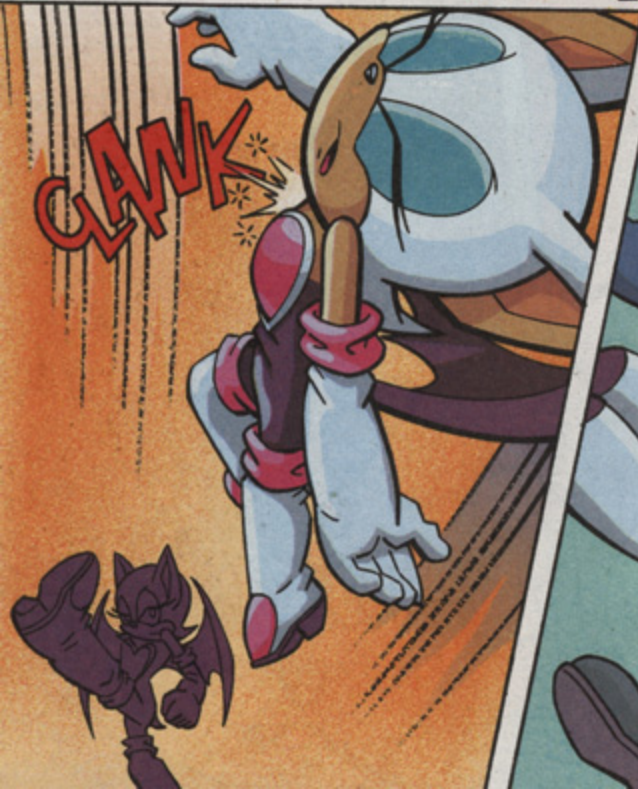
BAM

POW



DON'T
FIRE! YOU
CAN'T TELL
WHICH IS
WHICH!

I DON'T CARE!
THEY'RE BOTH
CRIMINALS,
AS FAR AS I'M
CONCERNED!

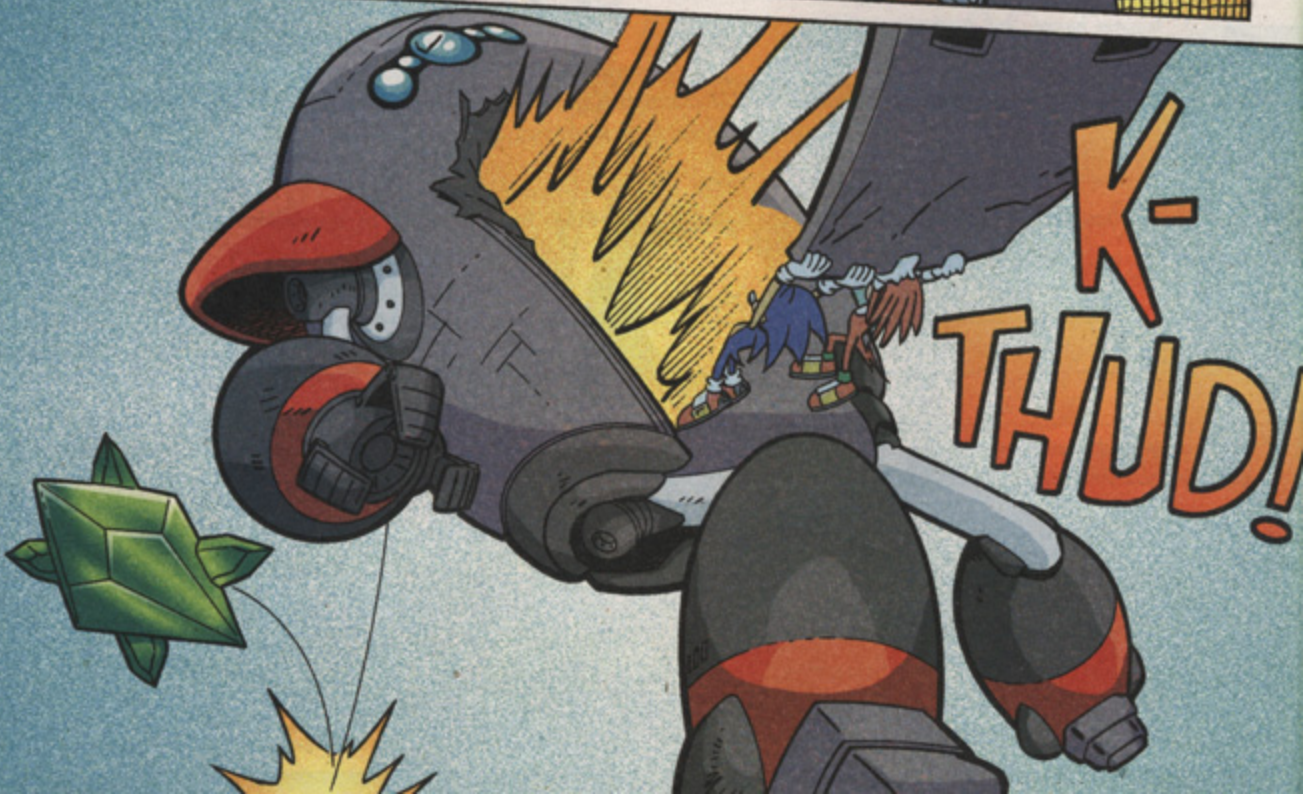
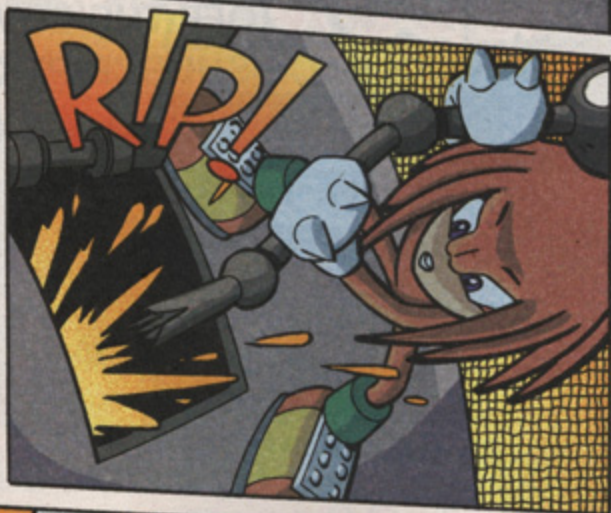
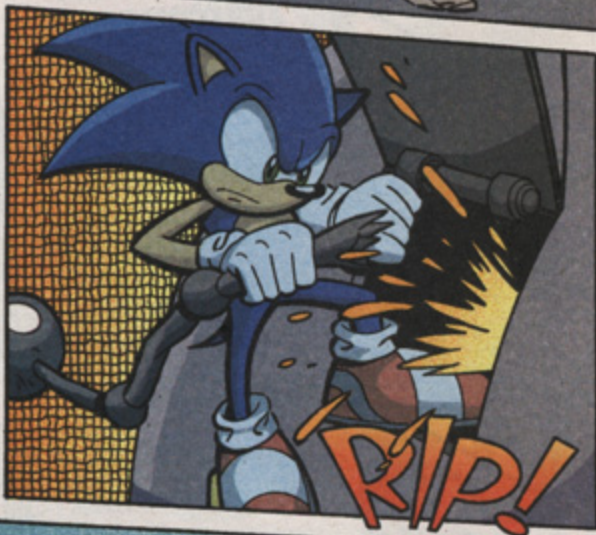
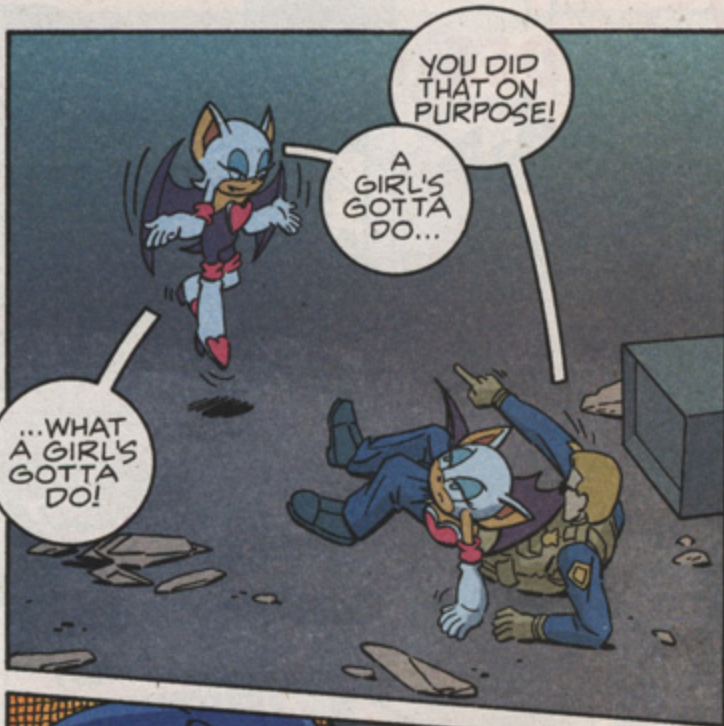


CLANK



WHUMP

OOF!



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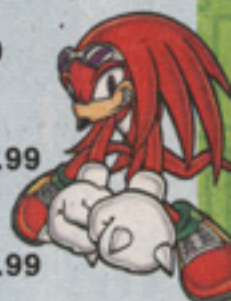
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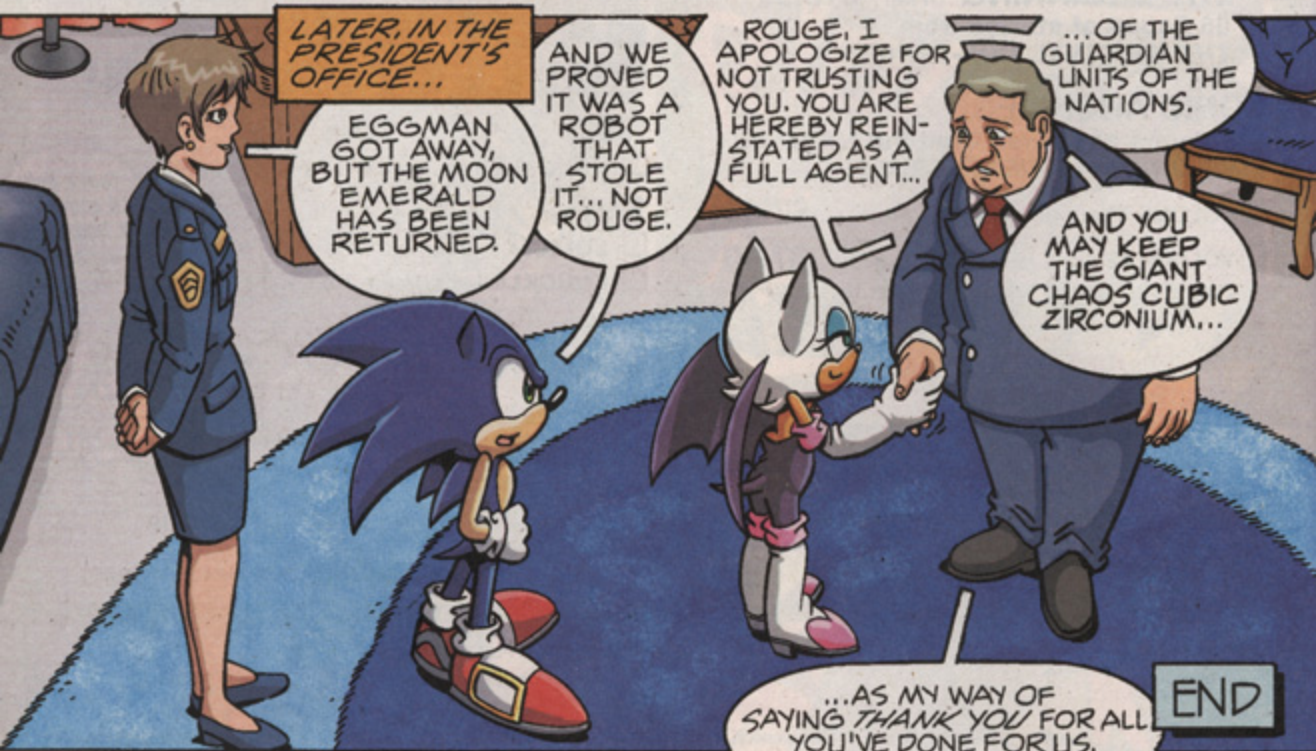


I THINK *THAT'S* WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR, KNUCKLES.



YOU MAY HAVE WON *THIS TIME*, SONIC. BUT I'LL BE BACK.

BRING IT ON, EGGMAN! I'LL BE WAITING!



LATER, IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE...

EGGMAN GOT AWAY, BUT THE MOON EMERALD HAS BEEN RETURNED.

AND WE PROVED IT WAS A ROBOT THAT STOLE IT... NOT ROUGE.

ROUGE, I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT TRUSTING YOU. YOU ARE HEREBY REIN-
STATED AS A FULL AGENT...

...OF THE GUARDIAN UNITS OF THE NATIONS.

AND YOU MAY KEEP THE GIANT CHAOS CUBIC ZIRCONIUM...

...AS MY WAY OF SAYING THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR US.

END



NEXT ISSUE IS SURE TO BE A WINNER WITH "MUERTA, LAS VEGAS!" LOOK FOR SONIC X#19 ON SALE MAY IN THE MEANTIME, LOOK FOR MORE SONIC ADVENTURE IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #174 AND SONIC ARCHIVES VOLUMES 1 & 2 ON SALE NOW!

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